

# SUCCESSFUL YEAR AT VAAP

## Plant Met or Exceeded '69 Goals

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The Volunteer Army Ammunition Plant continued to fulfill its mission of supplying American fighting forces in Vietnam with TNT during 1969. Plant manager Norl Hamilton, speaking for Atlas Chemical Industries, Inc., the operating contractor, and Lt. Col. Deryl A. Sisson, commanding officer, commenting for the Army, agreed that all quotas for the year had been met or exceeded according to schedule.

Along with the production record went significant achievements in safety, pollution control, cost reduction, employment efforts, training and other areas, the executives said in a year-end statement.

They predicted that the plant would continue to supply TNT as needed to American fighting forces during 1970 and beyond. While the changing needs of the war may require adjustments of the work force and other facilities, neither executive sees any "appreciable change" in operations at the plant during the coming year.

The safety record at VAAP for 1969 was especially lauded by Mr. Hamilton, who was re-

cently elected president of the Chattanooga Chapter of the National Safety Council. He pointed out that only one lost-time accident occurred at the plant during the last year and a half. This relatively minor injury broke a record that was approaching the 5-million man hour mark, an all-time high mark for the Volunteer Plant. Since that accident, a record of 282 days or 4,162,759 man-hours, which is still continuing, has been set at the plant.

Efforts in the field of air and stream pollution abatement were continuous during the year. The plant technical section announced at the end of 1969 that a 50 per cent improvement in control of effluent waters was achieved; that oxides of nitrogen emissions decreased by 60 per cent, and that sulfur dioxide emissions were cut in half.

Perhaps most significant in the Chattanooga area was a dramatic record in the control of particulates. The over-all average for 1969 was reported at 100 micrograms per cubic meter, a mark far below the average for the area.

Additionally, new techniques for measuring acidity in the air were developed during 1969 and the Redwater incinerators, a source of considerable emissions, were shut down when a market was found for the slurry or "thick red liquor" which had been burned in the incinerators.

VAAP impact on the local economy was considerable as

Atlas paid out about \$17 million in payrolls and spent \$18,375,000 in purchases. Of the total purchases, \$6,700,000 went to area small businesses and \$7,800,000 was spent in the local marketing area. The federal subsidy for student dependents of federal employees continued to aid the area in the field of education.

"Over all," concluded the executives, "we can say that the Volunteer Plant continued to perform a vital function in an economical and proficient manner. No area is more important than our national defense and we are proud of the men and women who have contributed their efforts in this cause."

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